

**KEEPING OF HONEY BEES  
LICENSE APPLICATION**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION

LICENSE FEE: \$46.00

RENEWAL APPLICATION

PRE-INSPECTION FEE: \$95.00

Address where bees will be located			
Name of property owner (please print)			Phone
Street	City	State	Zip
Email address			

**APPLICANT INFORMATION (IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER)**

Name of applicant (please print)			Phone
Street	City	State	Zip
Email address			

If this is a renewal, have there been any changes from the previous year? YES  NO

**APPLICANTS MUST:**

1. Attach a detailed diagram of the beekeeping equipment location including the distances to property lines and from nearby structures on neighboring properties according to Chapter 6.14.030(F)(1). If no changes, this is not required for renewal.
2. List on the reverse side the number and location of the hives.
3. Once the 14-day waiting period is complete and no objections have been received by the city, contact the Eau Claire City/County Health Department for inspection at 715-839-4718.

**APPLICANT'S STATEMENT**

I hereby certify that this application is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I agree, in the consideration of the issuing of this license, to comply with the laws of the State of Wisconsin, and to the provisions of the Municipal Code of Ordinances of the City of Eau Claire.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of owner

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant if different from owner

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Required inspector's signature			
Inspector	Phone	Signature	Date
Health Department	715-839-4718		
Other:			

Permit period January 1 to December 31 Non-refundable/Non-transferable <b>Submit form with attachments and payment to:</b> Paperwork: <a href="mailto:licensing@eauclairewi.gov">licensing@eauclairewi.gov</a> Payment: <a href="http://www.eauclairewi.gov/payment">www.eauclairewi.gov/payment</a> Drop box: 203 S Farwell St., EC, WI 54701 Mail: City of Eau Claire, PO Box 909, EC, WI 54702 Phone: 715-839-4923	<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b> <b>Fee: \$46.00</b> Tran Code: 1233 <b>Pre-Inspection fee: \$95.00</b> Tran Code: 5473  02/22 6.15	
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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBTAINING A KEEPING OF HONEY BEES LICENSE

- Complete the application
  - List if this is a renewal or a new license
- Attach a detailed diagram
  - If application is a renewal with no changes a diagram is not required.
- Written notification will be sent by the city to real estate owners/occupants within 50 ft. of the proposed hive location or abutting applicant's property, they have 14 days to respond.
- Once the 14-day waiting period is complete and no objections have been received by the city, contact the City/County Health Department for an inspection
  - New application: 715-839-4718
  - Renewal application: contact a state apiary inspector or member of a local beekeeping organization approved by the City-County Health Department.
- Licensing period is January 1 until December 31
  - Late fees may apply if renewal application is not received by January 1
- No person is permitted to keep more than:
  - One-half acre or less - two colonies
  - Larger than one-half acre but smaller than three-quarters acres – four colonies
  - One acre but smaller than ten acres – eight colonies
  - Ten acres or larger but smaller than forty-nine acres – one colony per acre
  - Forty-nine acres or larger – forty-nine colonies
- Post a sign including the words “HONEY BEE HIVE”, name & phone number along with a copy of the permit issued by the City of Eau Claire on the hive.
- Submit application and payment to:
  - Email: [licensing@eauclairewi.gov](mailto:licensing@eauclairewi.gov)
  - Mail: City of Eau Claire, PO Box 909, Eau Claire, WI 54702-0909
  - Dropbox: 203 S. Farwell Street, Eau Claire, WI 54701
- For questions, contact the City/County HD at 715-839-4718 or licensing at [licensing@eauclairewi.gov](mailto:licensing@eauclairewi.gov).

### APPLICANT: LIST THE NUMBER AND LOCATION OF HIVES, COLONIES AND THE EQUIPMENT


#### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Number of locations/hives	
Rear yard/side yard/roof top	
Screened location product, visible @ 25 ft.	
Constant supply of water	
License information posted on hive	
Notes/misc.	

### CHAPTER 6.14 KEEPING OF HONEY BEES

#### ORDINANCE INSPECTION REPORT

Permit-holder Name	Apiary Address	Phone Number	Date
<b>INSPECTION TYPE</b> (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Routine Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Complaint <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Re-inspection ____		<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Operational <input type="checkbox"/> Conditional <input type="checkbox"/> Suspended <input type="checkbox"/> Withhold <input type="checkbox"/> Revoke <input type="checkbox"/> Closure	

Observation	IN	OUT
Owner of the proposed property or an occupant with the owner's written permission		
A detailed lot diagram of equipment location (distances to property lines and from nearby structures)		
Neighborhood consent criteria met (owners/occupants of abutting properties and properties within 50 ft. of hives) <small>Note: 1) No objection from an eligible neighbor with a documented allergy; and 2) Less than 40% of eligible neighbors objected for any reason</small>		
Need of reasonable restrictions, limitations, conditions, or prohibitions <small>Note: Related to safeguard of public health and general welfare, and deemed necessary to reduce a likely public or private nuisance such as establishing adequate isolation of playground equipment, patios, recreational space, driveways, parking lots, etc.</small>		
Beekeeping equipment is restricted to rear-yards, side-yards, and rooftops		
Equipment is screened to avoid being visible from the street or sidewalk		
Equipment located $\geq$ 10 ft side-yard property line, 5 ft rear-yard property line, 15 ft public sidewalk, 25 ft principal residential dwelling		
Hives with removable frames, which are kept in sound and usable condition		
Hive does not exceed 15 cubic feet in size		
Source of water is available to the colony (Onsite basin capable of holding a gallon or more)		
Maintain beekeeping equipment in good condition		
Sign "HONEY BEE HIVE", name, and telephone number clearly readable at 25 ft		
A copy of the permit shall be placed on the hive		
Flyway barrier 6 ft shield property line within 25 ft of a hive		
Flyway barrier consists of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination thereof 1. Exemptions. a. Adjoining property is undeveloped, or is zoned agricultural or non-residential, or is a wildlife management area or naturalistic park land b. Hives are located on the roof at least five (5) ft from the side of the structure and at least fifteen (15) ft from any occupied structure		
Number of colonies based upon the size or configuration of the apiary lot: 1. One-half (1/2) acre or smaller: Two (2) colonies. 2. Greater than one-half (1/2) acre and less than three-quarter (3/4) acre lot: Four (4) colonies. 3. Greater than three-quarter (3/4) acre and less than one (1) acre lot: Six (6) colonies. 4. Greater than one (1) acre and less than ten (10) acres: Eight (8) colonies. 5. At least ten (10) acres and less than forty-nine (49) acres: One (1) colony per acre of size. 6. Forty-nine (49) acres or larger: Forty-nine (49) colonies.		

Comments/Orders: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand and agree to comply with the corrections ordered on this report. I understand that failure to comply could result in legal action or loss of permit.

SIGNATURE – Permit Holder	Date Signed
SIGNATURE – Inspector	Reinspection Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Reinspection Date:

## Chapter 6.14

### “KEEPING OF HONEY BEES”

#### Sections:

**6.14.010 Purpose.**

**6.14.020 Definitions.**

**6.14.030 Permit and Fee Required.**

**6.14.040 Conditions and Exemptions for Keeping and Maintaining Hives.**

**6.14.050 Standards of Practice.**

**6.14.060 Inspection and Enforcement.**

**6.14.070 Violation and Penalty.**

**6.14.010 Purpose.** The purpose of this article is to establish certain requirements of sound beekeeping practice intended to prevent problems associated with the keeping of bees in populated areas, and to reduce the likelihood of a private or a public nuisance.

**6.14.020 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the meaning indicated:

A. “Apiary” shall mean the assembly of one (1) or more colonies of honey bees at a single location.

B. “Beekeeper” shall mean a person who owns or has charge of one (1) or more colonies of honey bees.

C. “Beekeeping equipment” shall mean any item used in the operation of an apiary, such as hive bodies, supers, frames, top and bottom boards and extractors.

D. “Colony” shall mean an aggregate of honey bees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one (1) queen and at times drones, brood, combs, and honey.

E. “Hive” shall mean the receptacle inhabited by a colony that is manufactured or created for that purpose.

F. “Honey bee” shall mean all life stages of the common domestic honey bee, *Apis mellifera* species of European origin.

G. “Lot” shall mean a contiguous parcel of land under common ownership.

H. “Nucleus colony” shall mean a small quantity of honey bees with a queen housed in a smaller than usual hive box designed for a particular purpose.

I. “Undeveloped property” shall mean any idle land that is not improved or not in the process of being improved with residential, commercial, industrial, church, park, school or governmental facilities or other structures or improvements intended for human occupancy and the grounds maintained in associations therewith.

**6.14.030 Permit and Fees Required.** A. Persons that keep bees within the limits of the city must first obtain a permit. No person shall keep, maintain, or allow to be kept any hive or other facility for the housing of honey bees on or in any property in the City of Eau Claire without a permit.

B. Applications for a permit to keep or maintain bees will be made on such forms as provided by the City.

C. A permit fee shall be as stated in City of Eau Claire Fees and Licenses Schedule. Applicants shall also pay any and all applicable inspection fees including, but not limited to, health department inspection fees.

D. Permits shall not be transferable or refundable. Only the owner of the proposed permitted real property, or an occupant of the proposed permitted real property with the owner’s written permission, is eligible to obtain a beekeeping permit.

E. All permits issued shall expire on December 31st of the year of issuance unless sooner revoked.

F. Applicants shall provide the following information on the original application and with each renewal as indicated:

1. A detailed lot diagram of the beekeeping equipment location including the distances to property lines and from nearby structures on neighboring properties, and on any renewal only if the applicant intends to increase the number or relocate any of the hives on the property from the previous permit.

G. New permits may only be granted subject to the successful completion of the City-County Health Department pre-inspection. Permit renewals may only be granted subject to the successful completion of at least one annual inspection by a State Apiary Inspector or at least one annual inspection by a member of a local beekeeping organization approved by the City-County Health Department. Renewal applicants shall provide written documentation evidencing inspection(s). (Ord. 7276, 2018)

H. Written notification to all owners and occupants of real estate situated within fifty (50) feet of the applicant's proposed hive location or abutting the applicant's property shall be provided annually by the City. Property owners and occupants receiving notification may object in writing to the issuance or renewal of a license within fourteen (14) days of notification issuance.

1. The issuance or renewal of a license shall be denied if:

a. at least forty (40) percent of notified properties object to the issuance or renewal of a license; or

b. a resident of a notified property has a medically documented allergy and objects to the issuance or renewal of a license.

2. Large acreage exemption. When the proposed location of the beekeeping equipment and hives is within a lot greater than four (4) acres in size, the applicant is exempt from the above notification requirement if the applicant demonstrates that the beekeeping equipment and hives is greater than two hundred fifty (250) feet away from any property line.

#### **6.14.040 Conditions and Exemptions for Keeping and Maintaining Hives.**

A. Approval of all applications is subject to reasonable restrictions, limitations, conditions, or prohibitions prescribed by the City-County Health Department in consultation with the City Zoning, Forestry, Fire, and/or Police Departments. Any approved permit shall specify any restrictions, limitations, conditions or prohibitions deemed necessary by the health department to safeguard public health and the general welfare, and deemed necessary to reduce the likelihood of public or private nuisance.

B. The number and location of hives, colonies and/or beekeeping equipment used for the housing of honey bees permitted by this section shall be determined by a permit issued by the City of Eau Claire.

C. Beekeeping equipment shall be restricted to rear-yards and side-yards and shall be screened to avoid being visible from the street or sidewalk. Beekeeping equipment may also be permitted on a roof provided such equipment is screened from view and is determined by the health department to otherwise meet the setback and other requirements of this chapter.

D. Beekeeping equipment shall not be allowed on lots with two or more dwelling units unless the health department approves an exemption. An exemption may only be granted where unique circumstances exist in which the keeping of bees is otherwise consistent with both the purpose and requirements of this ordinance and will not interfere with any person's use or enjoyment of the property that person occupies. An exemption may be granted with special conditions and requirements to ensure beekeeping is consistent with the purpose and requirements of this ordinance.

E. Non-honey bees do not qualify for a permit and are not permitted to be kept within the City of Eau Claire.

F. Beekeeping equipment shall not be located closer than ten (10) feet from any side-yard property line, five (5) feet from any rear-yard property line, fifteen (15) feet from a public sidewalk, nor twenty-five (25) feet from a principal residential dwelling on an abutting lot.

**6.14.050 Standards of Practice.** Any person obtaining a permit pursuant to this section shall comply with the following standards of practice:

A. Honey bee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition. A hive shall not exceed 15 cubic feet in size.

B. Each beekeeper shall ensure that a sufficient and convenient source of water is available to the colony.

C. Each beekeeper shall ensure that no wax comb or other materials that might encourage robbing by other bees are left upon the grounds of the apiary lot. Such materials once removed from the site shall be handled and stored in sealed containers, or placed within a building or other insect-proof

container.

D. For each colony permitted to be maintained under this ordinance, there may also be maintained upon the same apiary lot, one (1) nucleus colony in a hive structure not to exceed one (1) standard nine and five-eighths (9-5/8) inch depth ten-frame hive body with no supers.

E. Each beekeeper shall maintain beekeeping equipment in good condition, including keeping the hives painted, and securing unused equipment from weather, potential theft or vandalism and occupancy by

swarms. It shall be a violation of this section for any beekeeper's unused equipment to attract a swarm, even if the beekeeper is not intentionally keeping honey bees.

F. In apiaries the beekeeper shall conspicuously post a sign including the words "HONEY BEE HIVE" and his/her name and telephone number clearly readable at twenty-five (25) feet. A copy of the permit shall be placed in a conspicuous place on the hive.

G. City of Eau Claire staff shall have the right to inspect any permitted beekeeping equipment between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Where practicable, prior notice shall be given to the beekeeper.

H. A flyway barrier six (6) feet in height shall shield any part of a property line that is within twenty-five (25) feet of a hive. The flyway barrier shall consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination thereof.

1. Exemptions.

a. A flyway barrier is not required if all property adjoining the apiary lot line is undeveloped, or is zoned agricultural or non-residential, or is a wildlife management area or naturalistic park land with no horse or foot trails located within twenty-five (25) feet of the apiary lot line.

b. The health department may provide a flyway barrier exemption if the hives are located on the roof of a structure containing at least one (1) full story if all hives are located at least five (5) feet from the side of the structure and at least fifteen (15) feet from any adjacent and occupied structure.

c. The health department may approve a shorter flyway barrier if necessary to comply with zoning or other land use restrictions where a shorter flyway barrier will not increase the likelihood of public or private nuisance.

I. No person is permitted to keep more than the following numbers of colonies on any lot within the city, based upon the size or configuration of the apiary lot:

1. One-half (1/2) acre or smaller lot: Two (2) colonies with an allowance for a temporary additional nucleus colony.

2. Larger than one-half (1/2) acre but smaller than three-quarter (3/4) acre lot: Four (4) colonies.

3. Larger than three-quarter (3/4) acre lot but smaller than one (1) acre lot: Six (6) colonies.

4. One (1) acre but smaller than ten (10) acres: Eight (8) colonies.

5. Ten (10) acres or larger but smaller than forty-nine (49) acres: One (1) colony per acre.

6. Forty-nine (49) acres or larger: Forty-nine (49) colonies.

7. If the beekeeper serves the community by removing a swarm or swarms of honey bees from locations where they are not desired, the beekeeper shall not be considered in violation the portion of this ordinance limiting the number of colonies if he/she temporarily houses the swarm on the apiary lot in compliance with the standards of practice set out in this ordinance for no more than 30 days from the date acquired. A beekeeper engaging in such a practice shall only qualify for this subsection's exemption if the beekeeper provides the City of Eau Claire written notification within seventy-two (72) hours of engaging in such an action.

8. Contiguous apiary lots under common ownership shall be combined for purposes of this chapter. Setback provisions contained in section 6.14.040 shall not be applicable to those property lines creating the contiguous portion of an apiary lot.

J. Hives not under active management and maintenance shall be dismantled or removed by the most recent permit holder.

K. In any instance in which a hive exhibits unusually aggressive characteristics, the beekeeper shall destroy or re-queen the hive. Queen shall be selected from stock bred for gentleness and non-swarmling characteristics. Unusual aggressiveness shall be determined by the health department director or her or his designee.

**6.14.060 Inspection and Enforcement.** A. The health department, the city building inspector or his or her designee, the zoning administrator or his or her designee, and the police department may issue compliance orders and citations pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, city code and state law.

B. Violations of this chapter may constitute a public nuisance under Chapter 9.36 of this Code, or under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 823. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as prohibiting the abatement of public nuisance by the City of Eau Claire or its officials in accordance with the laws of the State of Wisconsin, the laws of the United States, or the City of Eau Claire code of ordinances. This chapter shall also not be construed as otherwise limiting, in any way, any other action the City of Eau Claire is permitted to bring under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, the laws of the United States or under the City of Eau Claire code of ordinances

**6.14.070 Violation and Penalty.** Any person who violates this chapter shall, for each violation, forfeit not less than fifty (50) dollars nor more than two hundred (200) dollars not including court costs. Each day such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. (Ord. 7122, 2015).

# City of Eau Claire's Best Practices for Urban Beekeepers

## 1. Introduction

Interested in beekeeping? According to the USDA, honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) are responsible for one of every three mouthfuls of food we eat. Bees not only pollinate our fruits, vegetables, and flowers, but also the food fed to farm animals across the country. Their economic impact numbers in the billions of dollars because honeybees are essential to sustaining plant, animal and human life.



With bee populations dwindling for several decades, beekeepers have looked to urban environments to slow colony losses. Honeybees kept in residential areas have shown advantages to their rural counterparts in terms of over-winter successes and honey produced. Urban beekeeping has proven to be safe and productive but requires some extra consideration to avoid nuisance or disruption to neighbors.

## 2. Education

All beekeepers should have a solid understanding of honeybee biology and basic beekeeping methods. See recommended literature and additional resources in Sections 12 and 13 of this document. Beekeepers should stay informed of recommended changes in beekeeping practices, including the treatment of parasites and illness, threats to honeybee health, and government regulations. One way to do so is to become a member of a beekeeping association that holds regular meetings, such as the [Chippewa Valley Beekeepers Association](#), or the [Dunn County Beekeepers Association](#). There are also opportunities to gain hands-on beekeeping training and experience right here in Eau Claire County through both [Chippewa Valley Technical College](#) and [Beaver Creek Reserve](#).

## 3. License, Inspections, and Fees Required

Within the city of Eau Claire, residents wishing to keep honeybees must obtain a license from the City. An application can be obtained from the City either in-person or [online](#). Potential applicants should review all beekeeping provisions found in the [City Ordinance](#), Title 6, Chapter 6.14, and any [recent amendments](#) before submitting an application. Applicants should contact the [Eau Claire City-County Health Department](#) at 715-839-4718 with questions concerning any ordinance provisions.





New licenses are granted subject to the successful completion of a Health Department pre-inspection. License renewals may only be granted subject to the successful completion of at least one annual inspection by an authorized agent such as by the Chippewa Valley Beekeepers Association or the State Apiary Inspector

#### *Best Practices Overview*

Best beekeeping practices include maintaining bee colonies in moveable-frame hives that are kept in sound and usable condition; providing a constant and adequate water source; locating hives so that the movement of bees does not become a public nuisance. Beekeepers shall be able to respond immediately to control bee swarms and to remediate nuisance conditions that include, but not be limited to, aggressive or objectionable bee behaviors, hive placement or bee movement that interferes with pedestrian traffic or persons residing on or adjacent to the hive premises; and overcrowded, deceased or abandoned hives.

#### 4. Neighborhood Outreach

Honeybee operations may be viewed as a nuisance by some, mainly due to health concerns or aesthetics. As a component of the licensing process, the City of Eau Claire contacts the owners and occupants of neighboring properties to provide them with an opportunity to object to the issuance of a license. It is highly recommended that anyone interested in keeping bees on their property personally discuss their interest in beekeeping with their neighbors prior to applying for a license and with any new neighbors prior to any license renewal. Personal engagement is likely to enhance your neighbor's understanding about the impact that beekeeping may have on the neighborhood and to limit the extent of contention raised by neighbors during the notification process. The neighbor notification process is further described in Section 6.14.030 of the City Ordinance.

#### 5. Hives

Conditions and exemptions for keeping and maintaining hives, as well as standards of practice, are found in City Ordinance, Sections 6.14.040 and 6.14.050.

##### 5.1. Hive Management

Beekeepers should take into account that weather conditions influence bee behavior and plan to work with bees when conditions are favorable. Beekeepers should try to make sure that neighbors are not outdoors working or relaxing nearby when they open hives and should perform hive manipulations as quickly as possible with minimal disturbance to the bees.

Extended hive manipulations, particularly when removing honey, should be carefully planned to accommodate neighbors' activities. Smoke should be used when working bees. Hive entrances should be smoked before mowing or trimming in the hive area. Clippings and exhaust should be directed away from hive entrances. Consider using a manipulation cloth (to cover the top of the open hive) in extreme heat or to otherwise minimize hive disruption.



## 5.2. Hive Placement

Correct placement of hives is a very important consideration for responsible beekeeping. Renters are especially encouraged to seriously consider the long-term potential of their situations and must obtain owner permission in order to keep bees. Ensure that your hive is in a location that can be accessed regularly, safely, and easily.

Hives should be kept as far away as possible from roads, public sidewalks, and rights of way. Flight paths into the hive (generally ten feet in front of the hive entrance) should remain within the owner's lot, although flyway barriers (e.g., fencing and tall shrubs) can sometimes be used to redirect the bees' flight pattern.

## 5.3. Hive Densities in an Urban Setting

Beekeepers are advised to closely observe their apiary locations to determine the carrying capacity of the area—both the immediate area and roughly three miles in all directions— and to limit the number of hives accordingly. Signs of over-saturation in an area include slow colony growth, poor honey production, and excessively defensive behavior. Check with the Environmental Health Division on existing hives in your area.

## 5.4. Provision of Water

Beekeepers must provide a constant and adequate water source. Bees use large amounts of water to control temperature and humidity within the hive. They prefer a sunny place with surface moisture—such as gravel, a sponge set in a dog water bowl or the edge of a birdbath—where they will not drown. The water should be kept fresh and clean so as not to become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Beekeepers should establish such water sources near the apiary to encourage bees to forage for moisture near the hive. In hot weather, honeybees use large amounts of water to control temperature and humidity within the hive. It is particularly important in an urban environment to provide a source of fresh and constant water for the honeybees, to prevent them from seeking water from sources such as air conditioners or other such locations where the honeybee would be perceived as a nuisance.

## 6. Colony Temperament

Although generally docile, honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) can and may sting. Responsible management is therefore necessary to avoid creating problems for neighbors, particularly in an urban setting. A colony's temperament is determined by its queen's characteristics, its health, environmental factors (e.g., weather), and proximate activities. Every effort should be made to maintain a docile and non-defensive colony.

### 6.1. Swarming

Swarming is natural honeybee behavior, but it should be prevented or minimized especially in urban settings. Two primary causes of swarming are congestion and poor ventilation in the hive. To avoid these conditions, beekeepers should consider:

- ❖ Appropriately timed addition of supers for brood rearing and honey storage
- ❖ Use of screened bottom board
- ❖ Brood chamber manipulation and/or colony division
- ❖ Replacement of old or failing queens



When a swarm occurs, efforts should be made to collect the swarm. Swarms captured from areas of interstate transportation or heavily populated areas or other locations where the origin of the bees may be questionable should be monitored frequently for abnormal defensiveness. If in doubt, you may contact the Chippewa Valley Beekeepers Association for a qualified beekeeper to assist.

## 6.2. Robbing Behavior

When nectar is scarce, honeybees may rob from other hives. When they do, they tend to appear more defensive. Under such conditions, beekeepers should work hives for only short periods of time and only if really necessary. Exposing honey can encourage robbing. All honey, wax, and syrup spills should be cleaned up immediately. Areas used for honey extraction should be bee-proofed to prevent robbing situations.

## 7. Queens

Queens should only be obtained from the most reliable sources. Local sources, where available, are preferred to reduce the chances of introducing Africanized honeybees and to ensure that the queen is well suited to the climate.

Beekeepers should ensure that their queens are young and vigorous layers. A queen of less than two years old is recommended. Nevertheless, each beekeeper must evaluate their queens on a regular basis for performance and hive gentleness. Desirable characteristics for a queen include:

- ❖ Gentle disposition
- ❖ Brood viability
- ❖ Low swarming instinct
- ❖ Colony build up
- ❖ Disease and pest resistance
- ❖ Pollen hoarding

Only queens of European origin should be used. It is recommended that Italian or Minnesota Hygienic queens be used in Eau Claire, although other European races of *Apis mellifera* include Buckfast, Carniolan, Caucasian, Cordovan, Russian, and Starline. Per City Ordinance, any colony exhibiting unusually defensive behavior or an excessive swarming tendency must be requeened as soon as possible.

## 8. Disease Control

There are a number of honeybee diseases and pests for beekeepers to be concerned with. It is critical that beekeepers be educated to recognize and respond to disease. Some diseases, like American Foulbrood, are extremely contagious. Beekeepers should be extremely cautious about mixing hive equipment and purchasing used equipment for this reason. It is incumbent on beekeepers to manage all disease and pests, including parasitic mites, to ensure colony health and honey quality. Beekeepers should also report outbreaks of bee disease and pests to the Environmental Health Division of the City-County Health Department.



## 9. Record Keeping

Good record keeping should be a priority for all beekeepers. A written record of colony manipulation and observation should be maintained for each hive. Your colony management log should include a catalog of the equipment used, a record of inspections and findings therein, and a history of actions (e.g., adding / removing honey supers), and any relevant observations regarding the hive.

## 10. Closure

Beekeeping can be very enjoyable and rewarding, but also requires a significant commitment to maintain an effective operation. In the event that a beekeeper elects not to renew a license or a renewal is not granted by the City, it is the responsibility of the individual to promptly discontinue and disassemble their operation.

## 11. Africanized Honeybee (AHB)

The Africanized honeybee (AHB) was introduced to Brazil in 1957 and accidentally escaped from confinement colonies. While maintaining its genetic identity, this race of bee expanded its range in South and Central America and arrived in the United States around 1990. Since that time, AHB have colonized several southern states. Due to defensive behaviors and difficulties managing AHB using European honeybee beekeeping methods, the AHB population has disrupted agriculture, beekeeping, tourism, recreation, and public life in general as it has spread.

### 11.1. Avoid AHB Introduction & Establishment

The AHB avoidance practices are intended for maintenance of European stock and include:

- ❖ Bi-annual requeening with certified European stock purchased from reliable sources (local when possible)
- ❖ Requeening only with marked queens
- ❖ Maintaining requeening records and purchase documentation
- ❖ Monitoring the behavior of the bees and replacing the queen immediately if the hive becomes difficult to manage

Any beekeeper who witnesses unusually defensive behavior or an AHB should take the following steps:

1. Contact the City-County Health Department's Environmental Health Division at 715-839-4718
2. Contact the State Apiarist Inspector at 608-224-4572
3. Requeen immediately with certified European stock
4. Monitor requeened hive for continued defensiveness



## 12. Recommended Literature

- ❖ Bee Culture - The Magazine Of American Beekeeping
- ❖ The Beekeeper's Handbook by Alphonse Avitabile & Diana Sammataro (2006)
- ❖ Beekeeping for Dummies by Howland Blackiston (2009)
- ❖ First Lessons in Beekeeping by Keith S. Delaplane (2007)
- ❖ Natural Beekeeping: Organic Approaches to Modern Apiculture by Ross Conrad (2007)
- ❖ The ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture: An Encyclopedia Pertaining to the Scientific and Practical Culture of Honey Bees
- ❖ The Backyard Beekeeper: An Absolute Beginner's Guide by Kim Flottum (2010)
- ❖ Beekeeping: A Practical Guide by Richard E. Bonney (1993)
- ❖ The Hive and the Honey Bee by L.L. Langstroth (1853)
- ❖ Biology of the Honey Bee by Mark L. Winston (1991)
- ❖ Honey Plants of North America by John H. Lovell (1926)

## 13. Additional Resources

- ❖ WI State Beekeeper's Association <https://wihoney.org/>
- ❖ Chippewa Valley Beekeepers Association [www.chippewavalleybeekeepers.com](http://www.chippewavalleybeekeepers.com)
- ❖ Dunn County Beekeepers Association [www.dunncountybeekeepers.org](http://www.dunncountybeekeepers.org)
- ❖ Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/BeekeepingAndPollinators.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/BeekeepingAndPollinators.aspx)
- ❖ University of Minnesota – Bee Lab [www.beelab.umn.edu](http://www.beelab.umn.edu)
- ❖ University of Wisconsin Department of Entomology [www.entomology.wisc.edu](http://www.entomology.wisc.edu)
- ❖ Certified Naturally Grown's Apiary Standards - Handbook for Natural Beekeeping <https://certified.naturallygrown.org/documents/Handbook2ed.pdf>

## Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the New York City Beekeepers Association as most of the information presented in this document was used from their guide NYCBA'S Best Practices for Beekeeping. Pictures are courtesy of Drew Kaiser with the Chippewa Valley Beekeepers Association.

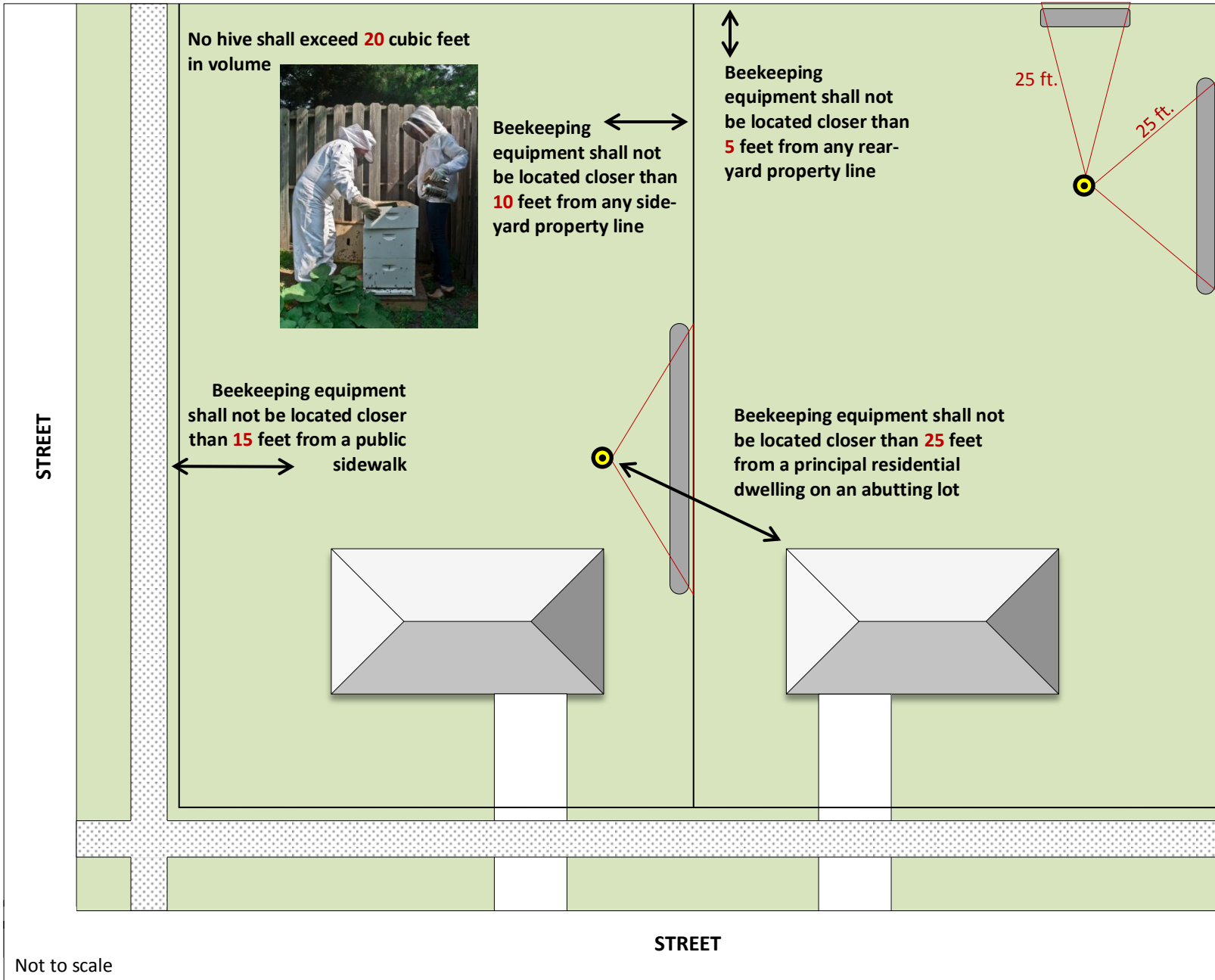
## Disclaimer

This document is and will always be a work in progress, intended for regular update and revision. It offers guidelines for responsible hobby beekeeping. Likewise, this document is not intended to provide legal advice. It does not address practices related to selling honey or any other farm product; moving colonies, bees, or beekeeping equipment; or liability/insurance issues.



# Flyway Diagram City of Eau Claire

A 6 feet tall flyway barrier shall shield any part of a property line that is **within 25 feet** of a hive. The flyway barrier shall consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination thereof and it shall be positioned to transect both legs of a triangle extending from an apex at the hive to each end point of the part of the property line to be shielded.



Not to scale





25-foot Buffer

Required Setbacks

Required Setbacks

25-foot Buffer

**HONEYBEE HIVE SETBACK PROVISIONS**

- Front yard - 20' to 30' minimum (depending on the zoning)
- Side yard - 10' minimum
- Rear yard - 5' minimum
- From public sidewalk - 15' minimum
- 25' from any principal residential dwelling on an abutting parcel





Required Setbacks

25-foot Buffer

25-foot Buffer





Required Setbacks

25-foot Buffer